

I. Introduction: What should you do when your world falls apart?

II. First, stop to think. James 1:19 Ecc. 5:2

III. Second, restate the basic principles of which you are sure. v. 12-13a

- A. The LORD is eternal and self-existent: *YHWH, Everlasting.* v. 12a Ps. 90:2 Deut. 33:27
Isa. 46:10 Mal. 3:6
- B. The LORD is Holy and Just: *His Eyes are too pure to approve evil.* v. 12b, 13a
Is. 6:3 5:16 I Pet. 1:15-16 Rev. 4:8 Ps. 22:3 5:4-5
- C. The LORD is Sovereign: *“You have appointed them.”* v. 12d, 14a Isa. 46:10 45:7
I Chron. 29:11-12 Amos 3:6 Lam. 3:37-38 Gen. 50:20 Acts 2:23
- D. The Almighty LORD is always a place of refuge for His people: *My Rock.* v. 12e
Ps. 18:2,31,46 Deut. 32:4 Isa. 26:4 30:29 Ps. 19:14
- E. The LORD is faithful to His covenant people. *We will not die.* v. 12bc Mt. 16:18
Ge. 12:3 Ex. 6:3 Dt. 9:5 2 Sa. 2:12f
- F. The LORD is *my* God. v. 12

IV. Third, apply what you know to your problem.

- A. Habakkuk puts his problem in the context of what he knows about God. v. 12
 - 1. Because God is eternal, the Babylonians and their idols will not prevail. Isa. 44:9ff
1 Sa. 5:1ff Ps. 73:16-17 Ro. 8:18,28 II Co. 4:17 Acts 17:27
 - 2. Because God is holy and just, He has a good reason for what He is doing: our
correction/chastisement. v. 12de Pr. 3:11-12 Heb. 12:5f Dt. 28:25ff Isa. 10:5ff
 - 3. Because God is sovereign, this calamity isn’t happening by chance. v. 14a, 12d
 - 4. Because God is our Rock and Refuge, we will not perish. v. 12ce
 - 5. Because God is faithful to His covenant, He will not abandon us. v. 12bc
Lev. 26:44-45 Deut. 4:29-31
- B. You also can apply what you know about God to your problems.
 - 1. What perspective might we gain on the troubles we face?
 - a. God is still the eternal LORD.
 - b. God is holy and just.
 - c. God is sovereign. v. 14a Lam. 3:37-38 Amos 3:6 Ps. 115:3 Pr. 21:1
 - d. The Almighty God is our refuge. Ps. 20:7 Isa. 31:1ff
 - e. The LORD is faithful to His covenant people. Ro. 8:31ff
 - f. You must take a long-term view.
 - 2. What help can you receive in facing problems in your life? Ps. 42:1ff

V. Finally, trust God and wait. 1:13b-2:1

- A. Habakkuk still doesn’t fully understand how a holy and sovereign God can allow the evil
Babylonians to conquer Judah. Jer. 12:1
 - 1. “We may be bad, but they are much worse!” v.13
 - 2. Does the punishment exceed the crime? v. 13 Jonah 1:17 Lam. 2:2,5
 - 3. How can God tolerate: v. 13d-17 Ps. 5:4-6
 - a. Treachery. v. 13d Jer. 3:8 9:2 Isa. 21:2
 - b. Dehumanizing oppression. v. 14-15c Isa. 63:19 10:14 Ps. 8:6-8 Pr. 21:7
Jer. 16:16 Ecc. 9:12 Deut. 28:50

- c. Idolatrous (anti) worship: rejoicing and sacrifice. v. 15d-16b 3:18 Jer. 44:17 Ps. 9:14 32:11 I Ki. 11:8 22:43 II Ki. 12:3 Hos. 4:13-14
 - d. Prosperity and success of the wicked. v. 16c-17
 - e. Proud arrogance. Dan. 5:1f
 - 4. How much longer can a just God remain silent? v. 13,17
- B. You will face situations in which your theology doesn't seem to square with the hard realities of life. God's actions may seem inconsistent with His nature.
 - 1. Many stumble when they experience hardship and evil. Ps. 73:2-3,12-17
 - 2. Some deny either God's goodness or His sovereignty.
 - 3. Habakkuk knows better.
 - a. While God does not do evil, He is sovereign over the free acts of evil men. v. 6, 12de, 14
 - b. He would rather live with tension than abandon what Scripture says about God's sovereignty or goodness.
 - c. You won't always have an immediate clear answer! Deut. 29:29
- C. Habakkuk stops complaining and starts waiting for an answer. 2:1
 - 1. He removes himself from the situation.
 - 2. He seeks an answer from God.
 - 3. He acts like a sentry as he watches and waits for God's reply. Isa. 21:6,8 62:6-7 I Ki. 19:11 Ps. 5:3 Mic. 7:7 II Ki. 19:17-18 Ezek. 3:17 33:1-7 Hos. 9:8
 - 4. He fully expects the LORD to make things right. Pr. 3:11 12:1 Ps. 85:8
 - 5. Habakkuk's wait will be rewarded. 2:4 Rom. 1:16-17
- D. Humbly commit your burdens to the LORD. 2:1
 - 1. Remove yourself from the problem and seek God. Gen. 18:23f
 - 2. Entrust your problem to the LORD. Phil. 4:6-7 I Pet. 5:7 Isa. 40:31
 - 3. Patiently wait in expectation of an answer – think long term. Phil. 3:20-21
 - 4. From where might the answer come?
 - 5. Prepare to be corrected (reproved). 2:1d Prov. 3:11

VI. Concluding Applications. Mt. 26:39 1 Pet. 2:21ff Ps. 22:1 Mark 15:34 Acts 2:23

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. What is Habakkuk's first complaint? 1:1-4
2. What is the LORD's first answer? 1:5-11
3. What is Habakkuk's second complaint? 1:13-17
4. What four steps for approaching trouble are illustrated by Habakkuk?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
5. How does the character of God help Habakkuk with his problem?
6. How can we find comfort and understanding from God's character as we face our personal, church, and national problems?
7. How are the Babylonians a gross offense to Habakkuk (and God)? 1:13-17
8. What does Habakkuk do when he can't think of a satisfactory answer to his dilemma? 2:1
9. What should you do when trouble comes into your life?
10. Is God sovereign over evil? Why is this important?